

NAME

mknod - create special files

SYNOPSIS

/sbin/mknod name c major minor

/sbin/mknod name b major minor

/sbin/mknod name p

DESCRIPTION

The **mknod** command creates the following types of files:

- Character device special file (first *SYNOPSIS* form),
- Block device special file (second *SYNOPSIS* form),
- FIFO file, sometimes called a named pipe (third *SYNOPSIS* form).

name is the path name of the file to be created. The newly created file has a default mode that is readable and writable by all users (0666), but the mode is modified by the current setting of the user's file mode creation mask (see *umask*(1)).

Character and Block Special Files

Character device special files are used for devices that can transfer single bytes at a time, such as nine-track magnetic tape drives, printers, plotters, disk drives operating in "raw" mode, and terminals. To create a character special file, use the **c** argument.

Block device special files are used for devices that usually transfer a block of data at a time, such as disk drives. To create a block device special file, use the **b** argument.

The remaining arguments specify the device that will be accessible through the new special file:

- | | |
|--------------|--|
| <i>major</i> | The major number specifies the major device type (for example, the device driver number). |
| <i>minor</i> | The minor number specifies the device location, which is typically, but not always, the unit, drive, and/or line number. |

The *major* and *minor* values can each be specified in hexadecimal, octal, or decimal, using C language conventions (decimal: no leading zero; octal: leading zero; hexadecimal: leading **0x**).

The assignment of major and minor device numbers is specific to each HP-UX system. Refer to the System Administrator manuals supplied with your system for details.

Only users who have appropriate privileges can use **mknod** to create a character or block device special file.

FIFO files

To create a FIFO (named pipe or buffer) file, use the **p** argument. You can also use the **mkfifo** command for this purpose (see *mkfifo*(1)). All users can use **mknod** to create FIFO files.

WARNINGS**Access Control Lists**

In HFS file systems, optional ACL entries can be added to special files and FIFOs with the **chacl** command (see *chacl*(1)). In JFS file systems, optional ACL entries can be added to special files and FIFOs with the **setacl** command (see *setacl*(1)). However, system programs are likely to silently change or eliminate the optional ACL entries for these files.

SEE ALSO

chacl(1), *mkdir*(1), *mkfifo*(1), *setacl*(1), *umask*(1), *lsdev*(1M), *sam*(1M), *mknod*(2), *acl*(5), *aclv*(5), *mknod*(5).

HP-UX System Administrator manuals

STANDARDS CONFORMANCE

mknod: SVID2, SVID3, XPG2

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